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INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN LAW. DESIGNED AS A FIRST BOOK FOR STUDENTS. By TIMOTHY WALKER, LL.D., Late Professor in Cincinnati College. Tenth Edition. Revised by CLEMENT BATES, of the Cincinnati Bar. Boston : Little, Brown & Co. 1895.

The contents of the original volume of this publication were never intended to have been given to the public, but were prepared by Professor Walker, and delivered by him in the Law School of Cincinnati College in the form of lectures, between the years of 1833 to 1837, which fact at once suggests that the sole object of the work is to give a general outline of the study of law. And yet, the attempt to cover the whole field of law, even in an elementary manner, involves a task demanding, if the project is to succeed, a careful attention to the necessity of condensation, simplicity of statement and a helpful arrangement. That the book containing the original text, together with copious notes, has lived through successive editions until now a tenth one is offered to the public, is a sufficient warranty that the above requisites have been successfully embodied in this single volume of eight hundred and fifty pages. After dealing with preliminary considerations in Part I, the following subjects receive treatment : Constitutional Law ; The Law of Persons ; The Law of Property ; The Law of Crimes ; The Law of Procedure ; and International Law. The subdivisions of the above branches are treated in an admirable manner, resulting in a presentation of the most prominent substantial features of each.

The plan, then, will be seen to be closely analagous to Kent and Blackstone, but differing from the former in being much more elementary, and from the latter in that, as its title suggests, it is an introduction to American and not English law. It is for the reason, said the author, that the American Blackstone is yet to appear, that he published this work.

But lest this comment result in a review, rather of the original work, than of the tenth edition, let us look for a moment to it. As a rule new editions are far too frequent. This is a greater objection when it occurs in a book intended pri-

marily for those who are just beginning the study of law, than in those designed for more advanced students and practitioners. It may be doubted, therefore, whether, as is the case here, two editions of this treatise were warranted within thirteen years. One thing, however, is sure, that it now contains the merit of former editions and notes up to date, which, if not essential, are still desirable, and it is with pleasure that it is recommended to the student class.

*B. F. P.*

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ELEMENTS OF DAMAGES. A HANDBOOK FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By ARTHUR H. SEDGWICK. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1896.

This little volume is an excellent sample of the modern idea of a text-book. The bulky volumes to which the profession has been so long accustomed have proved themselves so unfit for anything but reference, that there has grown up an imperative demand for just such book as this, which shall combine clearness and accuracy of statement with just sufficient reference to decided cases to prove the correctness of the principles laid down. Those two most important objects the author has kept steadily in view, and has succeeded to a marked degree in accomplishing them.

The arrangement of the work is in some respect very similar to that of the series of Handbooks issued by the West Publishing Company, but in several points it seems to contain marked improvements over even that admirably edited series. One of these is the careful discussion of the principle involved that precedes each rule; and another is the citation of the facts of the cases selected as illustrations, rather than that of the mere principle of law involved. Both these are a material assistance to both student and practitioner; enabling the former to perceive the application and scope of the principles and rules stated in the text without the necessity of referring to the cases themselves, and permitting the latter to see at a glance the applicability of these principles and rules to the case in hand, without a like reference.

Of course in matters of detail, this volume does not compete with larger and more diffuse works, such as Sedgwick and